#3/9a

PATENTS
Attorney Docket No. SYN-126

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

Applicant:	Suner *et al.*	Art Unit:	Unassigned
Serial No.:	Unassigned	Examiner:	Unassigned
Filing Date:	Herewith		
Title:	Undifferentiated Erythroid Cells and Their Use in Ligand Binding Assays		

BOX PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on November 6, 2001 with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 "Express Mail" Mailing Label EL703689124US in an envelope addressed to Box PCT, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

11/5/01
Date of signature and of mail deposit

Teresa Carvalho
Teresa Carvalho

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the substantive examination of the above-identified application, kindly amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 4, 5, 14, 16, 18, 21, 24, and 26, as described below. In addition, attached to the end of this Preliminary Amendment is a marked-up version of the amended claims, marked to show all of the changes relative to the previous version.

1. The use of an erythroid cell which is substantially undifferentiated, but which is capable of expressing a heterologous protein under the control of a globin promoter thereof, in an assay in which said protein interacts with an endogenous signalling cascade of said cell and said interaction is detected.

2. The use according to claim 1 wherein said erythroid cell is a murine erythroleukaemia (MEL) cell, rat erythroleukaemia cell (REL) or a human erythroleukaemia cell (HEL).

3. The use according to claim 2 wherein the erythroid cell is a murine erythroleukaemia cell.

4. The use according to claim 1 wherein the said globin promoter is the β-globin promoter.

5. An erythroid cell which is substantially undifferentiated but which is capable of expressing proteins under the control of a globin promoter thereof at levels which allow use in accordance with claim 1.

6. An erythoid cell according to claim 5 which comprises a cell as deposited at the European Collection of Cell Cultures under Accession number 99012801.

7. A method of producing an erythroid cell according to claim 5 which method comprises maintaining growing uninduced erythroid cells in culture for a sufficient period of time and isolating a subclone which expresses protein under the control of a globin promoter.

8. A method for determining the interaction between a receptor protein and a potential agonist or antagonist therefor, said method comprising incubating a cell as defined above which has been transformed so that it expresses said receptor protein as a G-protein coupled receptor, either